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## **Attention: Medicaid Physicians, Pharmacies, Renal Dialysis Facilities, LTC Facilities, and Provider Associations**

### **Parenteral Nutrition**

The Alabama Medicaid Agency may reimburse for total parenteral nutritional (TPN) solutions through the pharmacy program if the recipient meets certain requirements as listed below. TPN solutions include those used for hyperalimentation, intradialytic parenteral nutrition (IDPN), and intraperitoneal nutrition (IPN). Requirements must be met and clearly documented in the medical record for coverage of all TPN. All services rendered are subject to post payment review.

### **Statement of Medical Necessity**

The ordering physician will be responsible for writing a statement of medical necessity. This statement shall certify that the patient cannot be maintained on oral or enteral feedings and that due to severe pathology of the alimentary tract either hyperalimentation or IDPN/IPN must be given for 100% of nutritional needs. The original signed statement of medical necessity must be kept in the patient's medical record. This certification statement may be written or stamped on the prescription or reproduced on a form accompanying the prescription. The statement must be signed and dated by the certifying physician at the time of each order.

### **Hyperalimentation**

Medicaid covers hyperalimentation for recipients who meet certain requirements of medical necessity and documentation in the medical record is sufficient based on the following:

- Documentation in the medical record must validate the patient suffers from a permanently impaired gastrointestinal tract and that there is insufficient absorption of nutrients to maintain adequate strength and weight. The following are considered conditions which could cause insufficient absorption:
  1. Crohn's disease
  2. Obstruction secondary to stricture or neoplasm of the esophagus or stomach
  3. Loss of ability to swallow due to central nervous system disorder, where the risk of aspiration is great
  4. Short bowel syndrome secondary to massive small bowel resection
  5. Malabsorption due to enterocolic, enterovesical or enterocutaneous fistulas (TPN temporary until the repair of the fistula)
  6. Motility disorder (pseudo-obstruction)
  7. Prolonged paralytic ileus following a major surgical procedure or multiple injuries
  8. Newborn infants with catastrophic gastrointestinal anomalies such as tracheoesophageal fistulas, gastroschisis, omphalocele or massive intestinal atresia
  9. Infants and young children who fail to thrive due to systemic disease or secondary to insufficiency associated with short bowel syndrome, malabsorption or chronic idiopathic diarrhea.
- Medical record documentation must include supporting evidence that the patient cannot be maintained on oral or enteral feedings and that due to severe pathology of the alimentary tract, hyperalimentation must be given in order to meet 100% of the patient's nutritional needs.
- Physical signs, symptoms and test results indicating severe pathology of the alimentary tract must be clearly documented in the medical record. This would include BUN, serum albumin, and phosphorus. Medical records must document inability to maintain weight during a trial of at least four weeks of enteral feeding.

### **Intradialytic Parenteral Nutrition (IDPN) and Intraperitoneal Nutrition (IPN)**

IDPN and IPN involves infusing hyperalimentation fluids as part of dialysis, through the vascular shunt or intraperitoneally to normalize the amounts of albumin, glucose, and other nutrients in the blood stream to decrease morbidity and mortality associated with protein calorie malnutrition. IDPN and IPN solutions are considered **not covered** for the recipient with a functioning gastrointestinal tract whose need for parenteral nutrition is only due to the following:

- If IDPN or IPN is offered as an addition to regularly scheduled infusions of TPN
- If the recipient would not qualify as a candidate for TPN
- A swallowing disorder
- A temporary defect in gastric emptying such as a metabolic or electrolyte disorder
- A psychological disorder, such as depression, impairing food intake
- A metabolic disorder inducing anorexia, such as cancer
- A physical disorder impairing food intake, such as dyspnea or severe pulmonary or cardiac disease
- A side effect of medication
- Renal failure and/or dialysis

The following requirements must be met in order to bill for IDPN or IPN solutions:

- Documentation in the medical record must validate the patient suffers from a permanently impaired gastrointestinal tract and that there is insufficient absorption of nutrients to maintain adequate strength and weight.
- Documentation must include that the patient cannot be maintained on oral or enteral feedings and that due to severe pathology of the alimentary tract, IDPN or IPN must be given in order to meet 100% of the patient's nutritional needs.
- Infusions must be vital to the nutritional status of the recipient and not supplemental to a deficient diet or deficiencies caused by dialysis.
- Physical signs, symptoms and test results indicating severe pathology of the alimentary tract must be clearly documented in the medical record. This would include creatinine (predialysis), serum albumin (predialysis), a low or declining serum cholesterol level, and phosphorus. Medical records must document inability to maintain weight during a trial of at least four weeks of enteral feeding.

### **Restrictions**

A few solutions used in TPN preparation are considered payable as part of the composite rate for dialysis and should not be billed separately by the pharmacist; these are as follows:

- Glucose
- Dextrose
- Trace Elements
- Multivitamins